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THE
Present Condition
OF
GREAT-BRITAIN,
IN A

DISCOURSE
UPON
THINGS that have not been considered,
though they are of the greatest Consequence to Her.

WITH
A true State of the CASE between US and the
DUTCH, that may not be unworthy of the
Deliberations of that august Assembly by which
we are represented in **PARLIAMENT**; and
particularly in that great Article which fills
them with so many Terrors as are insinuated
in our present Accounts from *Holland*.

L O N D O N:

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(Price One Shilling.)



POSTSCRIPT.

AS it may be some Days before the Second Part of this Discourse can come to your Hands, I now inform you, Sir, that your Expectation may be raised to a variety of useful Subjects, and among them, a Discourse upon the Fatality of a Land War to the People of *England*, and it's Inconsistence with their Natural Interest. How far the Mistake of a Great Lord may contribute to a useful Way of thinking, and acting, in others of equal Influence in the Government of our Country. Also, an undoubted Rule for a perpetual Prevention of Bribery and Corruption, in all future Election for Members to sit in *Parliament*, and for maintaining a Freedom in their Suffrages after they are elected, that cannot be restrained by Places, Pensions, Promises, Menaces, or present Money; and a Security for the Liberties of the People, that nothing can violate.



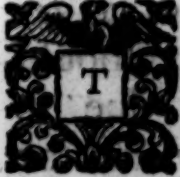


To the RIGHT HONOURABLE the

LORD-MAYOR,

The Court of ALDERMEN, DEPUTIES,
COMMON-COUNCIL, and MERCHANTS
of the City of *London*.

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

 HE small Work I lay at your Feet for the Honour of your Protection, treats upon a Variety of Things, in which all Men are mutually interested; and if it had not receiv'd many Approbations before its going to the Press, I should not be so unkind to myself, as to make an Offering of it to you, who communicate Life to the commercial Part of this Kingdom, upon whose Happiness that of all others is depending, as our Beings are upon that Order in Providence, by which the Day is conducted.

By your Wisdom and perpetuated Endeavours, the *Crown* is supported in the Splendor it enjoys; the *Lands* of our Kingdom receive the Value by which their Pro-

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prietors maintain their different Degrees of Honour, without Stain to the Fountain from whence they flow; and you are the Creators of profitable Employments to the depending Multitudes, that look up to your Endeavours for their Bread.

ALL the Degrees of Men from the *Throne* to the *Plough*, are in a mutual Dependence upon the *Merchant*, as upon one of the first Ministers of Providence to their daily Necessities. It is his Conduct in the Commerce that makes our *Fleets*, maintains our *Armies*, and that gilded our *Fleece* with *Gold*, when it was in the Zenith of its Glory; nor is any Man possess'd of a *Jewel*, or a piece of Plate, but what should be reminded by it, of the Thanks due to that Care in the Commerce, by which he became the Proprietor of it.

To know the real Value of a *Merchant*, a Man has only to look round him, that his Eye may be upon all the Riches he possesses, and by a secret Whisper in ^{or w} Language of his own Heart, he will be told, that all but his *Lands*, came to him by the *Merchant's* Care; for if they are the Offspring of his *Lands*, the *Merchant* makes and maintains the Correspondence that constitutes the Markets, without which, their Produce would be the same, as if they were within that Degree of Sterility

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rility, which answers not to more, than the pressing Necessities our Nature is every Day creating.

If he that does the most for his Country, is the most worthy of its Favour, there will be no Difficulty in finding the Degree of Honour the *Merchant* ought to be placed in; nor the Degree of Care that should be taken for his Preservation, for he is of more Value to a trading Nation, than the *Hero* that is crown'd with many of the most distinguish'd Victories, in a War that is not created by a Necessity for the Protection of its Trade.

THE *Hero* exhausts not only the Blood, but the Treasure of his Country in his Victories; but the *Merchant* improves it by his Care in the Commerce, and is every Day meriting the strongest Title to monumental Honour. The *Hero* fights for Pay certain, and in the Hope of Honour that is to centre in himself; but the *Merchant* trades to ~~his~~ Advantage that becomes universal, risques a Fortune upon doubtful Success, and serves Multitudes at his own Expence, when he is unfortunate.

FROM the *Merchant*, a large, a generous, and noble Spirit breaks forth in the Liberality of the Morning, which comes to shed Light and Warmth upon all the World, when that of the *Hero* is mercenary, and
circum-

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circumscrib'd to one Man, for the Object of all its Motions.

AN Estate made by a *Merchant*, is a Fortune raised in the most natural Way, and cannot be envied by any, but what are the better for the Acquisition. It is a Treasure laudably extracted from other Nations, to improve the common Stock from whence our Indigent, and Debilitated, receive their daily Relief, and our Country, the Force we confide in for its Defence.

ALL that we enjoy but the unmixed Gifts of Nature, makes us Debtors to his Wisdom, Diligence, and Care in the Commerce. This made the City of *London* rise in her own Strength, and appear among the *European* Cities, like the Majestic *Cedar* that towers above all the Trees; and the great Lord by whom she is governed, the greatest Magistrate upon the Globe.

OUR *Lands* produce the Matter, but the *Merchant* makes the Trade that gives the Value it produces to us. He puts Men upon the Methods that enlarge Nature, and prompts the Arts by which she brings forth beyond human Conception; and conducts the Part of a common Parent, in providing for the numerous Family by which this Island is inhabited.

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As it would be a Folly to exaggerate, it would be an Ingratitude to extenuate, or obscure those natural Truths that ought to lie uncovered, to remember Men of their Obligations to those by whom the Benefits are received, that are confessed in them. Carrying their own Evidence, they run directly to the Heart of him that hears them, where they are felt in their own Strength, and in the Beauty of their native Simplicity; and in their Light the *Merchant* ought to shine before Men.

My Lord, and Gentlemen, though our Obligation to our *Merchants* swells beyond the Power of Words, under the Cover of speaking to you, I am in no doubt of your allowing that I speak to all Men, that each may think up to the Benefits he receives from them, and to that which a Principle in Gratitude makes a Duty; nor am I without Hope, that this may furnish an Excuse for the Length, to which the Merit of the *Merchant* has carried my Thoughts.

If this Work has any Thing worthy of the Time that may be given to the reading it, Nature makes it yours, as you are the Support of that from whence it rises, as a Super structure from its Foundation, and makes my Dedication the Vehicle by which it returns to its Source, to maintain the Re-
stitution

DEDICATION

stitution she observes in all her Works; and
if it may be pleasing to you, he will have
his Desire, who solicites the Honour of be-
ing esteemed,

My LORD,

And GENTLEMEN,

Your most Obedient,

And most humble Servant,

T. W.

By



By Way of LETTER.

The Natural INTEREST of
GREAT-BRITAIN, &c.

S I R,



HAVING an unexpected Call into the Country, what I promis'd myself the Honour of delivering in Person, I committed to Writing as it now comes to you by the Hand of my Servant. Pursuing the Thread of that Discourse which was furnish'd by the Georgicks of *Virgil*, I find myself agreeably assisted by your Notions in *Agriculture*, and a Spirit in them by which every landed Man in *England* should be influenc'd.

THE Study is beautiful, as it is useful and delightful; great and noble, as it relates to an universal Good; learned, by its Enquiries into the Works of Nature; and of the greatest Consequence to the unlearned, in shewing them how one Body may be made to work upon another to a common Benefit; and highly commendable in a Gentleman, it concerning him as much to know how his Estate may be improv'd, as it does

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to

to see he has a just Account of the Profits it produces.

IN the Order of our Discourse, *Salt* shews itself as necessary, as it is common to the *Vegetable* and *Animal* Life; and that a Restraint upon the Use of it in *Agriculture*, brings Nature within the Bonds of a suffering State, and renders her less prolific than she inclines to be, for the Beauty and Conservation of her Works. Without it our Fields will not render that Abundance, which is of Necessity to our present Number of People; nor would the *Pigeon* live; the *Bee* gather its *Winter-stores*; or the *Olive-tree* bring forth.

As our only Recourse is to our *Lands* in every Necessity of Life, by an Order in our Nature, they are made the principal Object of our Mind, and the first, and strongest of its sublunary Engagements; yet the Necessity for this saline Quality is so ill understood, that tho' the Husbandman knows richer Crops are produced by *Dung*, than proceed from his *Lands* without it, he conceives not, that if its *Salts* were extracted, a Load of it would be no better to the *Land* it is laid upon than a Load of Dust.

TILL some Time after the Beginning of the last Century, it was thought an Happiness to be in the Neighbourhood of a Current that would carry off the Nuisance, the *Dung* of the Stable was then esteem'd; and the Benefits our Lands receive from the *Salts* in our *Soot*, have brought it to a Price that makes the *Soot* of a Chimney, a full Reward for the Labour of him that sweeps it, which, in my Remembrance, was paid in Money, and the *Soot* thrown away, as a Thing of no Value.

NOTWITHSTANDING the many Thousands of Acres in Waste, that are since turn'd into Tillage and Pasture, if the Ignorance of that Time had continu'd, our Country could not have afforded Food for that Increase of our own People which makes its present Number; nor should we have receiv'd the Benefit of those Exports that have been made to other Nations; and the Rental of our Lands might have been beneath the fourth of its present Value.

THE *Dung* of the *Pigeon* being above twenty Degrees higher in the *Salt* than that of the *Stable*, the Farmer finds his Account in giving more for one Load of it, than for twenty of the other. *Salt* being the general Principle from whence our Lands have their Improvement, every Estate in *England* suffers by the Duty it is charg'd with; for the Maker sells it beneath *Six-pence* a Bushel, exclusive of the Duty, which would bring it cheaper to the Farmer than *Stable-dung*, tho' he should give it a Land-carriage of fifty Miles; but the *Three Shillings* and *Seven-pence* to which the Duty brings it, anticipates the Use of it in our Lands, and is not unlike an Interdict upon the Gifts of Nature.

SOME Estates in the Neighbourhood of a Town where *Salt* is made, soon doubled in Value by foul *Salt* that could not be used in any other Way; and others were vastly improv'd by *Salt* in the Year its Duty was reduc'd; and if it had not return'd, most of the Lands in *England* might have doubled in Value some Time ago; have yielded to a Tax of four Shillings in the Pound, better than they can to two in their present Condition, and *England* might have been the Grainary of *Europe*.

Its Return was equal to a Prohibition to the Improvements that might have been made to so great an Advantage to our Country and its Crown; for by the Capacity they would give the one of paying to the other, several of the Duties that Labour pays, might have been reduc'd; by that some of our lost Trade might have been regain'd; that which was declining reviv'd; other Branches establish'd; and have return'd to the landed Interest, more than it would have cost to effect the Change, our Lands always rising and falling in Value, by the Increase or Decline of the Commerce.

Salt was then mix'd with *Dung* for a Manure, and sometimes scatter'd with the Hand as Seed in the Time of sowing, and it shew'd itself in the Fulness of the succeeding Crops. It is the *Salt* in the *Dung* of the *Pigeon*, and the *Stable*, that makes them the richest, and the most lasting Manure; and *Salt* mix'd with that of the *Stable*, heightens its Quality and Duration, by communicating more of that Principle which makes it rich and lasting.

By an old Farmer of good Observation, it was remark'd, that since the Custom of brining *Wheat* for Seed, our Crops have come in greater Burthen, and better secured from the Blites that were common to them before, which he attributed to the saline Quality the Seed imbibes in the Brining; and he advises the same for all other *Grain*, and most of the Things for the *Garden*, conceiving it might have equal Success in them; and he observ'd, that since the Custom of brining our Seed, there has been none of those general Blites which sometimes brought a Dearth of Corn upon our Country.

THIS

THIS suggested, that in a wet and cold Season, which frequently rots the pushing Corn, and ruins the Crop it should produce, *Salt* scatter'd with the Hand, would warm the Ground by a gradual Penetration; cherish the Corn at the Root, and strengthen the Blade against the Severity of Seasons by which it is sometimes destroy'd; and in a Trial with foul *Salt*, the Spot he made that Essay upon, render'd more Corn when the rest perish'd, than he had seen in the kindest Season.

As a *Salt-marsh* soon cures a distemper'd Beast that is cureable, and is more speedy than the *Meadow* in fitting him for the Market, it was his Opinion, that *Salt* sow'd in our *Meadows*, might have that Effect upon the *Grass* which it imbibes in the *Marshes* from the *Salt* of the *Sea*, by warming the Land, and cherishing the *Grass* at the Root, and shedding the saline Quality which gives so speedy a Prosperity to the Beast that feeds upon it; and that if it should produce the whole Effect of a *Salt-marsh*, in killing the distemper'd *Beast* that cannot be cur'd, it would be a Profit to the Owner.

THAT it will produce abundantly more, I know by an Information from the County of *Cornwall*, where they used to take the foul *Salt*, and Scales of the *Fish* after Cure, to the Beach of the *Sea*, that the next Tide might take it away; and an Accident turning a Load of it upon the *Grass*, it remain'd till the Weather dissolv'd it; but lying in so great Quantity for so small a Spot, and for such a Length of Time, for a Year after, not one Blade of *Grass* was seen upon it; but in the succeeding Year, and for several after

after that, it was thought to produce four Times as much as it had done in any Year before; and since that Discovery, they have given a Price for foul *Salt*, and find it a Manure that advances the Value of their Lands.

THE Farmers that are next the *Sea*, find an excellent Manure in its *Sand*, tho', simply consider'd, it is hurtful; but they find the saline Particles that are left in it by the Waters of the *Sea*, more than a Balance to the Wrongs their Lands may receive from it.

IN the Island of *Jersey*, it is with great Success that they manure with a Weed of the *Sea*, which comes up with the Spring-tides; and it is the *Salt* in our *Lime* that makes it so excellent a Manure, as Experience has prov'd it; and of all the Lands in *England*, those recover'd from the *Sea* have been found the most fertile, from the *Salts* they imbib'd in the Time they lay under its Waters, they producing in Excess for great Lengths of Time without any other Manure.

THE sowing of *Salt* upon our *Meadows*, may not be thought so rich a Manure as the Flow of the *Sea* upon our *Marshes*; but the *Salt* of the *Sea* making but one Pound to thirty of its *Water*, and that returning by the Order of the Tides, may take 39 Parts in 40 of their *Salts* to the *Sea* again; but the pure *Salt* sow'n is liable to Repetitions, a few of which may be equal to a great Number of Floods, and will remain for a gradual Dissolution, to affect the Root in a more natural Way; and the Waters that bring the fertile Principle, bring a Grit and Filth with them, which cannot be so well for the *Beast* that feeds
upon

upon the *Grass*, as the *Salt* which comes without that Defect.

THE *Salt* of the *Marshes*, by cleansing the Creatures of gross *Humours*, purifying their *Blood*, and killing the *Worms* which frequently kill them, don't only procure Health to the distemper'd, but prevents Illness, and creates the thriving Condition that makes them so speedily marketable ; and as the sowing of *Salt* will communicate the salutary Principle to our *Meadows*, it might produce the same Effect in the *Grass* we have from them.

SALT given to Horses in their Corn, kills the Botts, prevents the *Gripes*, and keeps them in a State of Health ; and if the *Grass* of the *Meadow* was in the Condition it would receive from the *Salt*, it might effect a Change in the Creatures that are Food for us, by which they would be richer in Nutriment and Flavour, when they come to our Tables.

THE Milk of the *Cow* might be enrich'd by it, and improv'd in its Quantity ; and that of the *Ewe* for the Benefit of her Young ; and it might promote a Prosperity in all the Creatures of the grazing Kind, that would multiply the Benefits we receive from them.

IT is the saline Quality that makes the *Fish* of the *Sea* so much better in themselves, and more grateful to us than those of our *Ponds*, *Lakes*, and *Rivers* ; and this in an *Hot-bed*, is that which communicates the Warmth, and that Spirit to the *Melon*, and the *Cucumber*, by which they receive Life, and, with other Things peculiar to the *Garden*, are hasten'd to Maturity.

SALT

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SALT is the Principle that improves all the Things by which the animal Life is maintain'd, there being no Herb but what has a *Salt* which it receives from the Hand of Nature ; and as the Earth changes to our Advantage, by the Arts that assist the prolific Principle in her, every Herb in the Field might make as favourable a Change by the Thing we treat of, many Thousands of Acres that lie waste, might be made fruitful at an easy Expence, and it might augment the Quantity, and improve the Quality of our *Hay* and *Grain* ; for by the Effects of Stable *Dung*, that of the *Pigeon* and the *Sheep*, we see the Earth will not bring forth in Plenty without it ; and the higher Quality it would give the *Dung* of the Stable, would show its own Worth in the Account of the Farmer.

If the Price of *Salt* would allow of its being used for a Manure, it would be a better Addition to the Riches of our Country, than a double Measure of its Land ; for that Acre which may be made to produce as much as two in the present Condition of our Lands, will require no more Seed, nor so much Labour as is given to half the Production. The Difficulty may not be great in finding an Equivalent for the Duty upon *Salt* among the Branches that are luxuriant, rather than of Necessity to us ; and I think I could point out one in which the Duty would be so obscure, that the Consumers of the Commodity, who must pay it, would not be able to discover it, and Duties so laid, are paid without Complaint.

By the *Corn*, *Leather*, and other Commodities we furnish to foreign Markets, it appears that our Lands in their present Condition, produce more than is wanting to our present Number of People, but it
gives

gives no Reason why their Improvements should be neglected; for tho' the Supply of our own People is naturally, and politically, our first and greatest Concern, it was but one of the Motives to that Care which brought them to their present Value.

As People at Home and Abroad are in a daily Increase, an increasing Worth in our Lands, will but proportion the foreign and domestic Demands from that Increase of People. The Increase of both is gradual, and always proceeding, but if that of our Lands should fail, the foreign Dependants upon their Productions, would send their Orders to other Nations, and the Benefit of Exports would be lost to us; and an Excess on the other Side would be worthless; but when the Productions stop not on either, the one maintains its annual Proportion to the other.

SOME Countries we trade to, have neither *Brine* in the Earth, nor *Sun* enough for the making of *Salt* by the Water of the *Sea*, for such Improvements in their Lands as may proportion the future Increase of their People; and as their Demands will be in proportion to that, our utmost Improvements may no more than balance our domestic and foreign Demands, under that Increase of People which Time will give.

A growing People are to be consider'd as growing Money, when Interest resolves into Principal, and produces an Interest; for the simple Increase of our own People are thought to be in 30000 *per Ann.* which is at the Rate of three Millions in a Century; but that Increase upon Increase, which naturally is, makes it abundantly more; and if we may reason from our own Increase to that of other Nations, we may fore-

see a pressing Necessity in some of them for future Relief from us.

CONSIDERING the Custom of the Ancients when *Agriculture* consisted of no more than opening the Earth with the *Plough*, and gathering her Fruits as she afforded them in that unassisted Condition, this may not be remotely conjectur'd: for then their Increase obliged them to send one Third of their People by Lot, to force Settlements in distant Countries, which was repeated to unburthen a Nation when it became too numerous for its Lands by an after Increase; but since *Agriculture* has been better understood, the same Lands subsist a much greater Number of People; but Increase will swell again beyond the Provision their Lands are capable of, and their Distresses will oblige them to have Recourse to the Nations that can manure with *Salt*.

THO' our Lands now answer to more than the Necessities of our own People, yet as we know of no Waste, or Stock in Hand, of Corn, or any other of the Commodities they produce, probably if they produc'd more, we might furnish more to foreign Markets for the present Stock of People, and particularly in Corn; for our having no Waste in that Article, implicates an Inequality to their Demands. But,

THEIR Increase will swell their Demands beyond our Produce, if our Lands are not proportionably improv'd; and as our Advantages proceed from our Exports, it will be our Prudence to provide for every Demand we may receive from Abroad; and if the Increase of our own People may have Place in our political Account, it may be found, that for their Relief,

lief, the Improvement of our Lands should be promoted.

IF to *Salt*, the Situation of a Farmer should oblige him to give a Land Carriage of 60 Miles, that, Duty free, would come cheaper than *Dung* that may be but a Mile from the Land it is to be laid upon; for there is a richer Manure in a Bushel of *Salt*, than in a Waggon-load of *Stable-dung*, and the Price of a Bushel of the one, would fall beneath the half of that which is given for a Load of the other; and as 40 Bushels make a Ton, a Team of tolerable Strength would draw 60; the Farmer would save in the Price of his Manure, in Time, and in Fatigue of Cattle and Servants; but by the *Sea* and navigable *Rivers*, that Length in Land-carriage would be prevented.

FARMS very distant to Market-Towns, can have no more *Stable Dung* than is made by their own *Horses*, which keeps them greatly beneath the Value to which they may be rais'd by *Salt*; and if the Duty upon it was totally reduc'd, the Farms so situated, might bring four Times their present Value to their Proprietors, and to the Crown in Proportion, and this would be done at the Expence of the Farmer, who would improve his own Fortune in the doing it.

IN the Duty upon *Salt*, our Nation has an Enemy within itself, that chases it from Advantages of inestimable Value in our *Herring Fishery*, a Thing that is made peculiar to us by the Order of Providence, and common to others by an Order of our *Crown*, against the curing our *Herrings* at *Sea*.

THIS Check in one of the richest of Nature's Gifts, destroys our Interest in our own, and leads those in-

to it who turn the Advantages they make in it against ourselves, and deprive us of the Riches that make a Part of our Portion by the Order of Nature ; and its proceeding from a Fear in the *Crown* of smuggling *Salt*, it is as a Thorn in the Feet of those by whom the *Crown* is maintain'd.

THE *Herrings* the *Dutch* take upon our Coast, are so much larger and finer in Flavour, than those of our own curing, that where they appear, ours will not sell. They ruin our Markets with our own *Fish*, and are capable of furnishing a finer Commodity at an inferior Price. Our *Herrings* and theirs being catch'd at the same Time, and in the same *Waters*, should have the same Size and Flavour when they are taken, unless a Thing I shall observe, may cause a Difference in the Size. But,

As the *Herring* dies in the Moment he is above the Water, his *Fluids* stagnate, his *Fibres* begin to separate and shrink, the *Fish* falls from its Size and Flavour, and disposes for Putrification if it has not an immediate Cast into the *Salt* ; for in the Instant Life ends, the Cure should begin, the curing the *Dutch Herring* at *Sea*, and ours at *Land*, being that which makes the Difference in Size, Flavour, and Price.

THE Difference proves this to be well understood by the *Dutch*, and as well reduced to Practice ; but if our Concern for the Success of the Commerce is inferior to theirs, it is to be hop'd the Improvement of our *Lands*, and that Treasure in the *Waters*, which is as much our own by the Order of Providence, will not be under a perpetual Interdict for a frivolous Duty, that, in the Neglect it imposes upon our *Lands*, and our
Fishery,

Fishery, takes from the Public as much more than its own Value, as makes a greater Difference than is between an Unit, and a Thousand.

IN the Risque of less than the half of 500 Pounds a Year in this fatal Branch of the Revenue, by an Allowance of *Salt* on Board our *Smacks*, it would save, and improve a Treasure which Nature has fix'd upon a solid Foundation in our Favour ; a Treasure which no other Nation should share in (Nature having made it peculiar to us) and next to Lands, the richest that is in all the World ; and that which all the Nations in *Europe* are feeding upon, and by which they fill the labouring Hand with a profitable Employment.

SALT in *Holland* is not without a Duty, nor its People without a Propensity to the Profits that are made by Smuggling ; but that Nation, fixing always in the superior Object, despises an ill concerted Restraint upon the smuggling of *Salt*, when so much a greater Thing may suffer by it, and allows of *Salt* on Board their *Fishing* Vessels, that the *Herring* may be in it in the Moment he is above the Water, to keep him to his Size and Flavour, the Consequence of which they feel the Benefit of in the Markets.

IF their Spirit had govern'd in the Councils of former Reigns, this trifling Object which hurts our *Country*, and its *Crown*, annually, in twenty Times more than the Worth of the whole Duty, and all the *Salt* that is made for our own Consumption, would not have fallen within their Care ; for the *Salt* in Value being beneath one Seventh Part of the Duty, if its Collection is about 300,000 Pounds *per Annum*,

Annum, (as I have been inform'd) the *Salt* and its *Duty*, amount not to 350,000; and as the *Duty* yields not above 180,000, neat to the Treasury, the two are beneath 230,000, which is as nothing to the Loss the *Duty* imposes upon the *Fishery* and our *Lands*.

THE forbidding *Salt* on Board our *Smacks*, imposes a Necessity for the curing our *Fish* at Land, or of quitting the Trade entirely, and by this a Part of the *Fish* is taken a Day and a Night, and sometimes longer, before it comes to Shore; and then it is handled, tossed, and bruised between the *Smacks* and the Places of Cure, and their Size and Flavour depart before they come to the Salt. Large Quantities being tainted and thrown away as the *Smacks* arrive, the Time, Fish, and Labour, being lost, the Quantity sav'd comes dearer to us than the same would do to the *Dutch* (who lose none) and renders them capable of selling their much finer *Fish* at a Price inferior to ours.

By this Restraint our *Smacks* are smaller, because a larger Quantity of *Fish* than they contain, would perish before they could come to Land for Cure; and their being built from 30 to 60 or 70 Tons each, when the *Dutch* (if I am truly inform'd) are not beneath 300, and many of them more than four, ours, one with the other, make seven or eight Turns to Sea, for the same Quantity of *Fish* that is taken in one Turn by each of them, which Disadvantage to us, is an Advantage to our Competitors in the Trade, that shows itself in the Price of the *Fish* when they come to the Market.

It is said the larger *Fish* are in the deeper *Waters*, and the *Dutch* in their larger Vessels fish in them; but ours cannot go so far from the Shore, because the *Fish* would perish by the want of *Salt* before their Return; and the Danger to our small Vessels in foul Weather, forbids their Venture so far to *Sea*; and those smaller *Fish* shrink, and are still smaller, by the want of Cure in the *Smacks*.

WHAT the *Dutch* catch are cured as they are taken, and no Labour is lost; but a large Part of ours is thrown away, and in those which we save, our Labour has nothing for its Reward, but that which the *Dutch* would be ashamed to carry to their Markets; for the Quality of their *Fish* is so much finer than ours, that to our Loss and lasting Disgrace, we are their Customers for as many as make a Profit of fifty Times more than our *Crown* can lose in the smuggling of *Salt*. The Difference between theirs and ours is such, that by their Care for the Reputation their Fish has through all *Europe*, they would throw away all that we cure.

WE cure abundance that are tainted before they touch the *Salt*, and their going bad to the Markets, whither the *Dutch* carry theirs without that Defect, the Disgrace becomes *National*, and forbids the Sale of the *Fish* that carries the Name of our Country; but if we were allowed to cure by *Sea*, not one bad *Fish* could come out of our Hands, and we should find Credit where we have none.

UNDER proper Management, the Loss of our *Crown* by *Salt* on Board, could be but small, the *Herring* Season being short, and the only Time in
which

which our *Smacks* can smuggle in *Salt*, and as there must be near 4000 Bushels smuggled to bring a Loss of 500 Pounds upon the *Crown*, I am not without Reasons why the half of that Quantity could not be smuggled in one Season.

By that unseasonable Suspicion, they who maintain the *Crown*, and supply to every Defect that occurs to any Branch of its Revenue, lose more than two Millions for each Hundred Pounds that may be saved to it, in the forbidding of *Salt* for the curing of our Fish at *Sea*, as if it was conjectur'd our *Crown* might wither by a Prosperity in the People it cannot subsist without. But,

THE Interest of the *Crown* and People are naturally mutual, or but one rather, for a Separation in their Interests, must be as pernicious as a Separation in the Interests of a Man and his Wife, which finishes in the Ruin of their Family. The View of the People in creating the *Crown*, was not to Oppression, but to Protection from the Violence of one another, and a Center for Unity that should determine their Disputes in Matters of social Right; for it could not come within their Intention, that a *Crown* of *Thorns* to themselves should be the Result of their own Deliberations.

As the *Red-Herrings* cannot be so well cured by the *Dutch* as by us, we sell great Quantities to them, to *Hamburgh*, *Russia*, and all the Countries upon the *Baltic*; to *Spain*, *Portugal*, and all the *Christian* Side of the *Mediterranean-Sea*, tho' they lose their Size and Flavour before their Cure begins; and if in this Condition, the Demand for them is such, how much

much greater would that and the Price be, if they were in the Perfection they would receive from Salt on Board our *Smacks*, that their first Cure might be at Sea? And how much more would the *White-Herrings* we now sell, bring into the Pockets of those that are concern'd in the Catching, by which the whole Kingdom would receive a Benefit, in the greater Plenty of Money it would create?

By our Favour to the *Dutch*, their Republic receiv'd the Strength by which it was establish'd; but if they had remain'd in their Subjection to *Spain*, probably our *East-India* Company had been the only one in all *Europe*, and the whole Trade for *Spices* our own; and the Advantages we might have made of the whole *India* Trade are so perceptible, that the same Relation is seen between their Treasure and the *British* Bounty, as is between the Sucker, and the Root from whence it proceeds.

AFTER that Flaw in our Conduct (in Consequence of which they found Settlements in the *East-Indies*) we had Hopes of a Share in the Trade for *Spices*; but by the unresented Wrongs we receiv'd from them at *Amboyna*, they excluded us, and laid their Hands upon the whole, and furnish *Spices*, not to *Europe* only, but to all the World, making those of the Country that produces them, pay them for the Quantities that are furnish'd to their Necessities; and since that, our Loss in it amounts to more than would purchase the Fee-simple of all the Lands they are possess'd of. And,

THE best Branch of the Trade they now enjoy, springs from an unregarded Trespass they annually make upon our Royalty in the *Waters*, which is as determin'd a Property, as is in *Lands*; but this might be over-look'd, if it did not deprive us of that Part of our own which it affords them; predict a future Necessity of fighting for it, and bring it to the Question, Whether our annual Loss by the Interdict the Duty upon *Salt*, tacitly, imposes upon the Endeavours of our People, and their Increase of Power in the Trespass, may not make the *Fishery* theirs by Dint of *Conquest*, and us *Tributary* for the Privilege of fishing in the *Waters*, that are ours in Right of Nature, by the Law of Nations, and by common Acceptation?

If this Treasure had been found in their Waters, by the just Regard they show to the Improvement of their own, it appears they would have risk'd their whole Force, to prevent an *Herring's* appearing in any Market, but what should be of their own catching, curing, and carrying to the Place of Sale; and that they would treat any Power which should persist in the Trespass they annually make upon us, as by the Laws of Equity they might deserve; and, to our endless Reproach, they now treat us in our own Royalty, as if the Burthen they lay upon us, belong'd to us by a lasting Inheritance.

THIS has been thought so worthy our Concern, as to create an Opinion, in many judicious Men, that we should make the whole Profits of the *Fishery* our own, tho' it should be at the Expence of a *War*; but

but the Season for such a Remedy leads into a Depth of Policy, that is not to be reach'd without a Knowledge of the Spring, by which the Council of State is mov'd. But,

THE forbidding *Salt* on Board our *Smacks*, deprives our own People of the Advantages that are naturally theirs; forbids them that Freedom in their own Royalty, which it promotes in those that use it against them; and to the Proprietors, an equal Chance for Profits with the Usurpers upon the Property; as if we had taken a Retaining-fee against ourselves, to create a Custom that may create a Right in their Favour, who have already gain'd more *Millions* by it, than are in all the Royal Treasuries of *Europe*.

By the Accounts taken in *Holland*, in the Year 1669, it appears, that 450,000 of their People were maintain'd by Fishing in our *Waters*, including the Trades depending upon it; and as this was when they had not half their present Number of fishing Vessels, their Number now employ'd, must be a *Million* at the least, besides the Hands that navigate their *Fish* to the Markets after their Cure.

ALLOWING that each of these makes a Profit of ten Pounds a Year, the whole Amount will be ten *Millions*, besides the Profits in navigating the *Fish* to the Places of Sale, and those which are otherwise accruing from it to the Republic, and from the Circulation of those *Millions* in their Commerce.

THIS Employment, and its Profits, should be added to that we have in it already, and might if we

had the Liberty the *Dutch* enjoy, in the Cure of their *Fish* at Sea; but we conduct as if a Fulness of Employment in Branches of better Business, did not allow of our engaging more Hands in that Way; but as that is a Happiness which does not belong to us, it must appear, that we are less knowing in the Commerce than the *Dutch*, or in less Concern for its Success; or that a Profit of less than the half of 500 Pounds a Year to the *Crown*, is prefer'd to the many Millions the *Fishery* would bestow upon the People.

We are as respectful to the Alliance we have with them, as if it was our Prudence to waste our Money and Blood in their Quarrels, and make a Surrender of our *Fishery* for its Support, tho' we have nothing to show for the many Millions already sunk in the serving them, but Poverty and Gripples in the Hospitals of our Kingdom. Barriers have been made for their Country at our Expence, and the only Consideration made to us, consists in the Honour of being number'd among their Allies.

THE Quarrels upon the Continent naturally affect the *Dutch*, and they find their Interest in calling for our Alliance, as a Provision for their own Safety, but ours will never be found in our Obedience; for as we have nothing to defend, or acquire upon the Continent, we have no Call naturally or politically, to any of its Quarrels. Our Share in a War upon the Continent, is against ourselves, but our Naval Power acts for its Country, and makes due Returns for our Expence when it is rightly conducted. To

us it is indifferent what the balance upon the Continent may be ; but while the Balance at *Sea* is in our Hands, we are in Safety, our Trade being the Source of all that is favourable to us.

N E V E R but in a naval War for the Protection of our Trade, can we want the Assistance of the *Dutch*, and in expecting it then, we shall deceive our selves, they being our Rivals in the Commerce, and in Competition with us for the Advantages it affords.

T H O' we are in no want of their Assistance, nor they in Safety without ours, yet when they have been in Danger, they have been so artful, as to bring us to Requests, by solemn Embasies, that they would joyn us in the Services intended them, at our own Expence of Blood and Treasure.

T H E *Millions* exhausted in our Wars upon the *Continent*, naturally take Place in the Account of Loss to us, and in that of Gain, to the Princes who were interested in them ; and as none were made our Debtors for them, they resolv'd into *Free-Gifts* as they were expended, tho' our own People were annually harras'd for the Interest Money of that Debt they created.

T o us those exhausted *Millions* are for ever sunk, with the Advantages we might have receiv'd from their Circulation in the *Commerce* ; and the Victories they afforded, have been to us, of the sort that *Pyrrhus* obtain'd over the *Romans*, for more of them would have reduced us to the dejected Stile of the *Dutch*, in the infancy of their Republic, each being our Leader into farther Expence upon the same Mistake ; but we finish in the Reputation of raising the finest Troops in the World,

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In Equivalence to the Debt we contracted for the Character.

O U R Case, as it may stand to our real Interest, is short, and easy to be understood, for Nature calls us to the *Commerce*, and has furnish'd all the Things by which we may promote it; she forbids our Concern in the Quarrels upon the *Continent*, and if our Fathers had submitted to her Direction, our *Trade* had not been forc'd into Hands, she seem'd not to intend it for; our Nation had been free of *Debt*; the *Millions* we have scatter'd Abroad, had remain'd with us, and multiplied by their Circulation in the *Commerce*; the present Weight of *Taxes* had not been created; nor should we have bent the Knee to the *Dutch*, for the Honour of winning and succouring Towns, to make a *Barrier* for their Safety, at our Expence.

T H A T which we retain of our Trade should be protected, and extended, by all the just Means we are possess'd off, and those are to be found in our Naval Power. We need no other Allies than what may be made in our own *Fleets*, which will be faithful to us, if we will be so to our selves; and our whole military Care should be confin'd to that single Article, it being by a Superiority at *Sea*, that we are to be Supported. In this, Nature has fix'd the Policy of our Country, and in our Obedience to her Dictates, we shall have a full Reward.

T H E Employment our *Fishery* would afford, would be of the highest Consequence to us, now that our Labour is fallen greatly beneath our Number of Labourers; for as their growing Stock increases, greater still will be their want of Employment, because we have not
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the Increase of those Nations that were our Customers, to answer to our own; and if *Silver* should not increase in Proportion to our Increase of People, in the Quantity that would make a Plenty now, an extreme Scarcity would be felt by the greater Number, which Time will naturally produce; and as Credit is founded in Money, the one will decline in Proportion to the Scarcity of the other.

THO' *Silver* should increase annually, it would grow more scarce, even while it might be augmenting, if its Increase should not be equal to the Increase of that Number of People, which must share it between them; for a Pound Weight in *Silver* between ten Men, makes a greater Plenty, than a Pound and half between twenty, the Increase in Men being ten, and in the Ounces of *Silver* but six. But,

As an Increase of *Silver* is not naturally possible in a Decline of the Commerce that brings it in to us, in each succeeding Year, we shall have the greater Feeling of the approaching Evil. From the *Throne* to the *Cottage*, a Provision against so threatening a Futurity, should be every ones Concern, and the *Fishery* makes a large Field for that Spirit to work in. For,

BESIDES the Employment it would afford upon the *Water*, it would give a great deal to *Coopers*, *Ship-Carpenters*, and *Smiths*; to *Labourers*, *Carriers* and *Proprietors* in *Salt*; to *Colliers*, and *Carriers* of *Coal*; to *Iron-Mills*, *Pan-Smiths*, *Bricklayers*, and *House-Carpenters*; to others for *Nets*, *Buildings*, *Utenfils*, and *Carriage* to foreign Markets; and, if the Duty was reduc'd, that *Salt* might be a Manure for our
Lands,

the Quantities they would require, would fill the Hands of great Numbers in that Increase of *Buildings*; Land and Water *Carriage* it would occasion for *Salt* and *Coal*.

THE *Fishery*, in that Extent the allowing *Salt* at *Sea* would give it, might be a Nursery for *Seamen*, which would reduce the Severity of that *Press* in Time of War which unmans our *Colliers*, and is hurtful to the Trade of *London*, by the Price it places on *Coal*, which immediately affects all the *Traders* that work by *Fire*, by which their Goods go the dearer to the foreign Markets, and wound us in the Part we should be the most tender of.

It would preserve our trading Ships from a *Press*, by which the Trade stagnates in the Want of Hands to conduct it, and is to the Body-politic, as a Stagnation of the Animal-Spirits in the Body-natural, there being nothing so fatal to a trading Nation, as a Stagnation in that which is the Seat of its Happiness, and the Source of that Strength and Treasure, which protects and consoles the whole.

THE *Press* upon our trading Ships has been the Ruin of many great Men in Business, and others that mix'd with them in Accounts, so as to affect abundance of Families, and the Trade itself, in the Circulation of the Evil. It has produced Changes in foreign Markets, that have turn'd the Course of Trade to our Disadvantage; for a Restraint in the Commerce removes it, it chusing that for its Country, which affords it the greatest Freedom, its Preservation depending upon as great a Freedom, as the *Waters* have in their

their natural Course ; a Point which by many Incumbrances in our Commerce, seems not to have been so well digested, as the Necessities of a trading People ordinarily require.

As the great Branch of Duty in our fighting *Ships* is to protect our *Trade*, a *Press* upon our trading *Ships* will render them so far useless ; for if we destroy the *Trade* for that which is to protect it, in vain will it be, that the one is maintain'd after the Death of the other ; for after the Loss of that which is to be protected, the Protectors may return to perpetual Rest.

FRANCE, tho' under a despotic Government, makes no *Press* upon the Men of her trading *Ships* in Time of War, but preserves them for the *Trade* by which the War is to be maintain'd, or they could not have rival'd us with so much Success, in the most valuable Branches of the Commerce ; and if the same Policy had not been observ'd by the *Dutch*, they could not have made themselves so great at Home and Abroad, in the few Years since they took the Form of a Republic, the Necessity for a perfect *Freedom* in the Commerce, being the same, in Respect to those that are to conduct it, for a *Freedom* in the one, cannot be, if it subsists not in the other.

THIS being well understood by the *Dutch*, they, in Tenderneſs to their *Trade*, would never engage in any War that might interrupt it, for as with *France* in the late Wars, so with *Spain* formerly, they traded and fought at the same Time, and the Foundations of

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their Trade to *Africa* and the *East-Indies*, were laid in the Heat of a War.

THE Productions of their Country, being in no Proportion to their Number of People, by their Policy and Diligence in the Commerce, they make other Nations maintain them; and they, who naturally have not for their own Necessities, are possess'd with *Magazines*, which furnish to the Necessities of others, and are the natural Effects, and reasonable Rewards of such a Conduct.

THO' there is not a more despotic Power than that by which their Republic is govern'd, they know when, and how to moderate it for a common Benefit; and in that seasonable Mediocrity, they preserve the Men of their trading Ships, for the conducting a Trade in Time of War to the Nations their Quarrel is with, and by this, they profited more than they expended in the late Wars with *France*.

OUR prohibiting a Trade with *France*, plac'd them between the two Nations in the Commerce, and giving them a greater Trade than they had enjoy'd in any Time of Peace, it turn'd the Weight of that War upon us, tho' we had not the least Advantage in the Conquests that were made at our Expence, and they had all the Benefits in them that were of Necessity to their Safety in a Barrier.

THE Hands train'd in their *Fisbery*, voluntarily answer every Call to their fighting Ships, for there is no Press with them; and they are so far from checking the Improvement of their *Fisbery*, by a pernicious Fear in the smuggling of *Salt*, that the first Vessel which comes

comes in with cured *Herrings*, is rewarded by an Order of the State, with a Purse of 500 *Guilders*; the second with 250, the third with 150, and the fourth with 100; and as the Ancients made *Songs* upon their *Hero's* and their Victories, to inspire the Populace with a Military Virtue; an Emulation that should lead to great Actions, and fill them with an useful Intrepidity, the *Dutch* make *Songs* to proclaim the Benefits they receive from the *Herring* Fishery.

THEY print, and promote the singing them, to infuse that Spirit which is of Necessity to a trading People, and to fix the Heart in that Treasure which they find in our *Fishery*, as a Thing that is not to be neglected by them, or their Posterity; when we oppress it by the Sanction of a Law, as if its Extinction would turn to our Advantage, by its making their Nation the Centre of Riches, and of a Power that will be too formidable for us.

CONSIDERING the Measure and Production of their *Lands*, the Meanness of their Beginning, as a Republic, and the Time since that was, with the superior Advantages that fell from the Hand of Providence in our Favour, they are relatively so far before us in Power, Policy, and Reputation, that it would be no Dishonour to us to make them exemplary, in the Recovery of that we have lost, or the Improvement of that which we retain.

I AM inform'd, the Collection of Duty upon *Salt* for the whole Kingdom, amounts to about 300,000 Pounds a Year, of which the *Crown* receives about 180000, and by all the Interests it affects, our Coun-

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try is the worse by some *Millions* in each Year, and the *Crown* a Loser by that Proportion of Revenue they might afford.

IN the smallest of those Articles by which this may be prov'd, it will appear, that Labour pays more than nine Tenths of the Duty; for our working People and their Families, are more than nine Tenths of the People of *England*, and almost their whole Subsistence is by Meats that are high in the *Salt*, of which our Gentry eat but little, and they are in a manner, the only Consumers of the *Leather* that is dressed in *Salt*. This will show itself in the Things labour'd for foreign Markets, where no Show of our Duties should be made, if we would make them our own; for, as other Nations will naturally refuse to pay our *Duties*, they will not be our Customers for the Commodities in which they shall appear.

IF the Commerce is not as *free* in itself as the *Air* is to us, it will fly to a Country that may know how to treat it as it deserves; for as the World has nothing in it that pines so much in the Want of *Freedom*, the smallest Duty will be a slow *Poison* to that Branch of it which it may affect, tho' it should be in a remote Way. By our Loss of the richest Branches in our *Commerce*, we may learn that Labour for foreign Markets, should be eased by all the Arts we are possess'd of, our Mistakes in this, having ruin'd the *Golden Fleece* we so justly gloried in, when we made *Cloth*, *Flannels*, *Serges*, and other Things for *France*, the *Levant*, and the *Netherlands*; for Ease to Labour, is like a Drawback of Duty from the Goods exported, and the one is not less necessary than the other.

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MANY things are affected by our Duty upon *Salt*, in such a Manner, that it's Reduction would ease our *Labour*; give a new Spring to a languishing Trade, that should maintain the common Stock, and augment it by our Providence, for the growing People in Procession; and give Advantages in the *Fishery*, which in the Circulation of Business, would be felt by every Hand that should come within the Circle, and make it better to us, than the richest Mine in *Peru* to it's Proprietor.

AN injury to our Commerce that may seem small, will be to it, as an *Ulcer* in the Lung of a decaying Body, that affects the whole, and surely kills, if the Cause is not remov'd by the care of the *Physician*; and as that destructive Duty affects our landed Interest, if there was no other Way for it's affecting the Commerce, it would reach it with Severity, by that unnatural Restraint it lays upon the Improvement of our Lands.

OUR landed and trading Interests are so nearly related, that either must decline, when the other languishes; Art and Nature having made them as Sympathetic, as Nature only has made the *Iron* and the *Loadstone*, and as their Combination is for the Improvement of our Treasure, and a Strength by which the Possession of those Gifts is to be maintain'd; shall we break it for that Bauble in Question, which differs in Value, as the *Sprat* and the *Leviathan*, differ in Magnitude?

IT seems a Prodigy in the Mistake of former Reigns, that as our Country in it's natural Fertility, is superior to most; placed in the Way to all the Profits that can be made of its Productions; fill'd with the Arts by which all may be turn'd to the greatest Advantage, and a People

ple that have the Will to do it ; and possess'd of excellent Ports, and a naval Power for their Carriage, and Protection to foreign Markets, should be restrain'd from it's Improvement, by a Law of it's own making.

A L L manner of Encouragement should be given to the Improvement of our Lands, as they are the common Pledge for our Necessities, and their Interest, that, in which all others are founded. It is with them, as with many other Things that admit of no Medium, for if their Value improves not, it will decline, by that Increase of our own People which each Day produces. For,

P A R I S H Expence will be in Proportion to our Increase of People, and the Decline of Labour ; the more our growing Numbers may increase, the less we shall have to send Abroad, and it is not our own Consumption, but our Exports which make the Riches that regale us, and the Power that protects us ; for the one brings *Silver* and *Gold* into the Kingdom, and the other a Waste of 30,000 Pounds a Year, upon that which we have in Cash only, by the constant Use that is made of it.

O U R number and increase of People, join'd to our Exports, should make one of the principal Articles of our Political Arithmetic, though it is but rarely thought of ; for as *Marriage* changes the Condition of a Man, in the Provision he must make for the Increase it will produce, so does the daily Increase of a People, make a Change in the Condition of the Country by which they are to be maintained ; and it concerns a State, as it does the Master of a Family, to know how many he has to provide for, and is to be served by ; for
Wisdom

Wisdom has her Seat in Proportion, and to her, Obedience will be always due.

THE Emperor of *China* always knows the Number of his People, and makes it a Measure to his *Politics*. He has a pretty Method for it, and we are capable of one that would be annually as exact, and without Trouble or Expence. It would be a Rule to the Judgment that should be made of our growing Necessity for the Improvement of our *Lands*, the Increase of *Employment*, and the Duties that may be done to the *Crown*.

OUR People being once esteemed the Riches of our Country, and the labouring Hand worth 300 Pounds to the Public, it may be thought they cannot swell to a Number that may oppress it; but the Judgment is relative, for before we lost the Glory of our *Golden Fleece*, and some other Branches in our *Commerce*, our Number of People was less, our Labour more, and always enough to fill every Hand with a profitable Employment, and then the Judgment was just.

THEN our People were the Riches of our Country, and the laborious Hand worth 300 Pounds to the Public, or it could not have rewarded his Labour with the common Interest of that Sum; but as our Number of People is much greater now, and our Employment abundantly less, the swelling Number, and its Increase, will over-burthen our Country, if it remains in its present Condition. For,

WHEN Labourers are more than the Labour, many of them are worse than nothing, by the whole Expence that is made to prevent the Violence that would
make

make the common Stock a Prey to their Necessities, and break that Fence to Property, which secures every Man in the Fruit of his own Industry, or that of his Father's, to which he has the most undoubted Right. But,

WHEN Labour is equal to the Number of Labourers, every Hand is a Treasure to his Country, by making a Profit of abundantly more than is given him, or it could not maintain its Luxury, and the Debilitated, whose Number is great when we include the *Aged, Infants, Cripples, Sick, Blind, Ideots, Dilirious*, the many Thousands that are Servants to *Vice, Sloth*, and *Folly* only, and the Debilitated by Educations that are simply *Indolent*; and, as many of the Disorders that make the Streets of *London* perilous to its Inhabitants, and the common Roads not less dangerous to the Traveller, proceed from the Want of Employment, greater Evils may be expected from our Increase of People, if we provide not against them by an Improvement of our Lands for their Food, and of our Commerce for their Employment.

FALSE, Impolitic, and Unfortunate, was the Distinction which formerly governed in the Deliberations of the great Council of the Kingdom, between our landed and trading Interests, when Supplies were to be granted to the *Crown*; for the Two are but One, and each is naturally in a mutual Dependence upon the Prosperity of the other. For,

IF our Lands produce not for our foreign Demands, our Ships must quit the *Seas*, our Merchants their *Counting Houses*, and the Commerce would be no more. Or if they were to produce in the greatest Profusion,

Profusion, without foreign Demands for the Production, every Estate would fall in Value; Parish Books must open for the Reception of all that would be in want of the Employment which is created by the Commerce; and a proceeding Indigence would make Property a Prey to the Distressed; break the Ties of Conscience, and make them too strong for the Laws that are made to bind them from the Evil.

To ease themselves in the Expence of the War incumbent, our landed Men, laid a Weight upon the Commerce, beyond what it was able to bear; for overcharging it with Taxes and Excises, it presently began to pine, and hasten from it's natural Course towards a Period; and those that were to proceed from themselves, were involved in the Ruin it naturally portended, though the Effects of that unnatural Distinction lay upon the Surface of the Business before them.

To reach all that was intended upon the Commerce, they incumbered it with additional Duties and Excises, as if it's Eradication was determined; for Excises are of so pernicious a Quality, that their Name should not be allowed amongst a free People, or where the Commerce makes the Seat of Happiness.

LABOUR then oppressed to a Degree that sent our Goods too dear to foreign Markets, a Decline of Trade naturally ensued; and a Trade with France was forbidden, when it ballanced greatly in our Favour, not conceiving, as the Dutch did, how we could trade and fight with the same People at the same Time. This forcing the French to make Cloth for themselves, they

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improved their *Flocks*, and offered large Rewards for Instructions in the making such Goods as they had traded to *England* for.

AFTER the Treaty of *Ryswick*, our Army then in *Flanders*, was disbanded there, as if by some forward Fate, it was calculated to complete our Ruin in the best Branch of Business that was then in the World; for the *Clothiers* in our disbanded Army, accepted the Offers of *France*, and perfected it's People in all the Branches of their own Profession; and this Combination of unhappy Circumstances, gave the greatest of all Victories to *France*, and a Defeat to us that was equally Great to our Disadvantage.

THE Duties our Labour paid, were turn'd into Funds for borrowing of present Money, and that entail'd our Taxes for the Payment of it's Interest. The Funds producing *Stock* in Paper, under *Parliamentary* Security, it created a Trade, which, with the *Lotteries* that succeeded, ruin'd personal Credit; drew our Cash out of the *Commerce*; turned the Thoughts of our People to an unnatural Way of employing their Money; and delivered the *Commerce* to a languishing Condition.

WHEN the *French* had learned to make Cloth for themselves, they knew how to make for their Neighbours; and their Situation favouring a Trade to the *Levant*, that, and their Capacity of working cheaper than we were then able to do, gave them the Trade we had created there, and the Evil extended till it depriv'd us of that we had enjoy'd to the *Netherlands*,
which

which *France* is now in the Possession of, making *Lisle* it's Market, as *Bruges* had been ours; and the Shops of the ten Provinces, where nothing but *English* Cloth appeared before the Prohibition that obliged the *French* to make Cloth for themselves, are now filled with Cloth from *France*.

IN the Time of our Trade with *France*, it's Money in *Silver*, *Gold* and *Copper*, was as common with us as the *Gold* of *Portugal* is now, and in it's making a great Part of the *Cash* of our Kingdom, we saw the Advantage we had in the Balance of our Trade with that Nation, when the fatal Interdict was imposed upon it; but that Balance was a Trifle to our Advantage in its Incapacity of serving itself, the *Levant*, the *Netherlands*, *Spain*, and others, with the Commodities they had been our Customers for; for the Difference between our furnishing to the Necessities of many Millions, and it's being done by *France*, which is at frequent Enmity with us, will make a greater Article in that Balance of Power so much talked of in *Europe*, than a greater Extent of Dominion; an Improvement being better than the Enlargement of a Country.

IF the collective Wisdom of our Country had been preserved from that Mistake, the Increase of Customers Abroad, would have proportioned the Increase of our Labourers at Home; have been filling the Hands of our working People with profitable Employments, and our Merchants with Riches, in which all our People would have been Sharers. This was not taken from us, but forced upon the *French* by Laws of our

own making, as if we allied with them against our selves, and would press that Ballance into their Hands which the Powers upon the Continent united to prevent.

As the cheaper Liver will be the cheaper Labourer, *France* will retain the Trade we have given it, it's People being naturally capable of living upon less than ours, and ours under a political Necessity of making a greater Expence than they naturally require; for in the Article of *Ale*, without which our Labourers cannot do their Duty, *Woolcombers, Dyers, Hatters*, and others that work by Fire, pay to the *Crown* out of their daily Labour, Six-Pence, and often more, in what they drink; but the *French* may buy a Gallon of their *Wine* with the Money that is given for a Quart of our *Ale*, and that will support the Spirits of a working Man better than three of *Ale*, and make a Difference of *Two Shillings and Nine-pence* in their Favour.

THIS Difference will be in every Yard of Cloth, if that Consumption of *Ale* is made upon it in all the Parts of Labour between the *Sheep's Back*, and the Place of Sale, and that may appear from the many different Employments the *Fleece* gives, to bring it into marketable Cloth. By this, with the other Duties Labour pays, more than one Half the Value of the Goods we send Abroad, may be paid to the *Crown* before they leave the Kingdom; and it's being the same as a Tax upon them for so much beyond their natural Worth, if all the Markets should shut up against every Thing we make with *Wool*, or Matter of other Kinds;

it is what we may expect Time should produce. Yet, though our *Golden Fleece* is past the Zenith of its Glory, there seems a Way to its Relief, which I mention not, it being no more than a Speculation.

IF Ease to our Trade is not the Point in constant View, as the *Needle* is to him that holds the *Helm*, it will retire as Insects do from the Severities of the *Winter*; for it always flies from Ill-usage, and cannot be confin'd to the Place that treats it unkindly; but if we use it with the Tenderness it deserves, it may bloom again, and refresh us with its Fruits in their Season.

HAPPIER had it been to our landed Interest, that it had born the whole Weight of that *War*, than that the *Commerce* from whence we have our Riches, and that Value in our Lands which exceeds the Worth that is placed in them, by the unmix'd Necessities of our Nature, should be oppress'd; but the present prevailed; the future was to look to itself, and Posterity was given up to the Evils that were to be the Result of their Conduct; but if Losses and Disappointments constitute the School of Wisdom, we may hope for the Relief we pray for.

THE Proprietors of Estates in *London*, and its Suburbs, see the Truth of this in the Houses that are deserted by the Want of Business. They feel it in the fall of Rents, where Houses are inhabited, for in them the Traders struggle like the dying Candle that labours to maintain its Flame. Those that remain in Trade, were but Sharers in the Expence of Parochial
 Poor,

Poor, but being charg'd with the whole, the Dead to Business are feeding upon the Living, too importunately for their present Condition.

SOME think the deserting of Houses in the most trading Parts of the Town, was occasion'd by the new Buildings, near the Road to *Oxford*, and that the Traders are remov'd to them; but there are no wholesale Traders, and the Retailers chiefly consist of *Butchers, Bakers, Victuallers*, and small Shops, to serve the Necessities of the Poor that labour for the Rich in that Neighbourhood; for those who think not of the Increase of our People, imagine the Inhabitants of those Buildings drawn from other Parts of the Town; but our national Increase could fill them, without Loss to those that were prior to them, or Injury to the Country, it having more Labourers than Labour.

LONDON is the first affected by Obstructions in our *Commerce*, but as she is the Seat of Life to the Trade of this Kingdom, her Oppressions circulate till they become universal; and as the Glory of our Trade is eclips'd, my Mistakes we cannot recall, since we cannot prevail with other Nations to pay our Taxes in the Commodities they buy of us, nor with the *French* to forget their Cunning in the Clothing-Trade, our Concern for the Improvement of that which remains to us, should be the greater, and husbanded as Provisions are in the Expectation of a Famine.

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As the Failure of one *Merchant* is an unconceivable Misfortune, in the Interruption it occasions to the Employment he creates by *Sea* and *Land*, the Decline of our *Turkey* Company, is the Mother of a Misfortune that will be generally lamented, and the vast Consequence our Settlements in *Africa* are of to our Plantation-Trade, makes it a melancholy Thing to see them upon the Point of being sold to other Nations, as Things at Auction are to the best Bidders, when they may be preserv'd by an annual Expence, not exceeding that which is made upon a Regiment of Soldiers.

STRANGE it is, that our *Fishery* should be the *Golden* Mine of the seven Provinces, and by an unnatural Restraint upon our People, be to its Proprietors, as the *Peruvian* Mines which enrich'd other Nations, while that was in Poverty which held them in Property. Each Million the *Dutch* get in it, annually circulates more than ten in the *Commerce*, and if each of them make no more than 10 *per Cent.* in the Circulation, the Million that gives the Motion, is doubled within the Year. This makes a Stock that supplies to the Necessities of their State, and to such as Infancy, Age, or other Infirmities have cast out of all Employment. We lose what they gain in it, and it is believ'd, they have made a Profit of more than two hundred Millions *Sterling*, since the Beginning of their Trespas.

If nothing but a War can cast them out of it, and that we, who have fought so many Battels for them, should

should think of fighting one for ourselves, it will show what our Mistake has been; for the longer it may be before it comes to that, the greater Power we shall have to oppose, with a Power that is every Day declining; but if our People were allow'd to fish upon equal Terms with them that are in Competition with them for their own, and with their own, are beating them out of all the *European* Markets, by that better Condition their curing at *Sea* gives it, they would catch, cure, and carry to the Markets cheaper than the *Dutch*, and might regain those they are our Rivals in; and the End for which a War may be thought necessary, might be answer'd without fighting, and give us the Advantage of serving all *Europe* with a Commodity in daily Consumption, and universal Esteem. For,

We fish at Home, when the *Dutch* have a considerable Way to make to the *Fishery*, and the *Fish*, *Salt*, *Iron*, *Cordage*, and *Timber*, the Trade will require, are our own; but they are oblig'd to purchase these of other Nations, excepting the *Fish*, and they have them for nothing but the Honour they do us in the fetching them away. It is said, they fit out a Ship cheaper than we can, and to our inestimable Loss, and not less to our Disgrace, abundance of our Shipping go to them to be fitted out, giving them the Employment, and Cash, our own Country ought to have the Benefit of; that is occasion'd by their furnishing a better Commodity to the *Baltic* from our *Fishery*, than we can, they having the naval Stores for
their

their *Herrings*; which we are oblig'd to give Money for; and this Misfortune naturally proceeding from our Duty upon *Salt*, may be remov'd when we please, and the *Dutch* be brought to us for the fitting out their *Shipping*, upon the very Reason by which we are now carried to them; for if that unhappy Duty did not deprive us of the Advantages that would flow from those Gifts of Nature, our *Fishery* would afford a generous Provision for the Necessities of our increasing People.

IN the Preambles to some former Acts of *Parliament*, it is said, *The public Honour, Wealth, and Safety of this Realm, as well in the Maintenance of Trade, and the Support of Navigation, as in many other Respects, both in an high Degree, depend upon the Improvement and Encouragement of our Fishery*; but the Duty upon *Salt* still subsisting, the Restraint upon the Improvement that was to be provided for, subsisted with it; and in 1719, an Act was made for recovering the Credit of the *British Fishery* in foreign Parts, and for the better securing the Duty on *Salt*; though the Duty was the Ruin of that Credit they would recover to the *Fishery*, and as great a Contradiction to it, as can be between natural Antipathies; and to fill the Measure of that Mistake, the *Salt* with which our *Fish* was cured, paid the Duty till the Year 1722, and then a Drawback was allow'd, but that, without an Allowance of *Salt* on Board our *Smacks*, will never recover the Credit of the *British Fishery*, for the Malady remains, and it cannot be suppos'd the Effect will cease, while the Cause subsists.

By the Loss of those rich Branches in Trade which proceeded from the *Fleets*, we lost the Benefit of their Increase we formerly enjoy'd, and must be burthen'd with our own, in the Void of that Employment it would have created; which makes it a Duty in us, to use all the just Means within the Power of Art and Nature, for the Improvement of our *Lands*, and our *Fishery*, to extenuate the growing Weight with which we, and our Posterity, are threatned.

THE *Dutch* in all their Proclamations for the Continuance of their Commerce, take the most respectful Notice of the *Fishery*, and in many of their Edicts, they stile it, *The Golden Mine of their Republic*; and to perpetuate the Industry of their People in our *Fishery*, they always declare, that the Power of their State will be in Proportion to their Success in it. It makes the greatest Trade they are possess'd of, and was the Parent of their Safety from the Power of *Spain*; of their Settlements Abroad; of their *East-India* Company, and their Trade to all the World in *Spices*; of all the Power they are possess'd of, and of that which not only makes them our Rivals in the Commerce, but even formidable to us, from whom they have been receiving this Advantage in an annual Way.

OUR Loss, and the Gain the *Dutch* make in their Trespas upon us, and the Use they may make of it against us, brings it to the Question, Whether they may not gather a Treasure, and a Strength, that may make us Tributary to them for our own, and bring

us under a Loss of the richest Royalty in the *Waters*, if the Duty upon *Salt* is not totally eradicated?

I THINK the Question may be answer'd in the Affirmative; for that Duty is equal to an Interdict upon the farther Improvement of our *Lands*, and the Benefits our *Fisbery* would afford; and by the Increase of our People in the Decline of our Commerce, when that of the *Dutch* improves, and extends to all the Parts of the Earth in the highest Gale of Prosperity, we may be furnish'd with Apprehensions of an unhappy Futurity, and the more from their unwearyed Industry, general, daring, and unshaken Propensity, to the promoting their national Interest. For,

It is not long since they were a small Nation, under the Style of *Poor* and *Distressed*; but by Policy, Frugality, and a commendable Industry, they are elevated to that of *High* and *Mighty*; and though the Counties of *York* and *Lincoln*, may contain as many Acres as are in their seven Provinces, they have extended their Dominion to the *East* and *West-Indies*, though the Seat of their Empire is not enlarged.

THEY carry their Commerce to all Parts of the Earth, though they have not Bread of their own growth, nor Productions by which a Trade with other Nations might be created; but are at a large and constant Expence upon Garrisons for their Barrier Towns, and have the *Seas* for a restless, a powerful, and a perpetual Enemy, against which they are obliged to de-

send themselves at a daily Expence that would maintain a considerable Army. But,

By the Riches gathered from our *Fishery*, they have acquired a Naval Power, that gives them Place among the greatest of the *Maritime Powers*, and an Influence in the Affairs of *Europe*, not inferior to that of the most considerable of its Princes. They give them the Capacity of maintaining Armies, of making other Nations their *Mercenaries* in *War*, and themselves so formidable, that the greatest Powers solicit their Friendship.

THESE honourably acquired, would have given them more to glory in, and us less to apprehend; but the Commerce is not without *Enthusiasts*, who have their Deity, as well as those in Religion, and in whose Service they think of Death, as the *Romans* did in their Views to monumental Honour.

IN the Tenderness of their most Infant State, as a Republic, and soon after we destroyed that *Armado* which was esteemed Invincible; they despised our Resentments, and perpetrated the Massacre of our People at *Amboyna*, to engross the Trade to all the World for *Spices*, and excluded us, who were their Leaders into it.

IMMEDIATELY after they declared themselves a Republic, they disputed the Empire of the Seas with their natural Prince, and made a Capture of his *Flotilla*, in its Way from the *West-Indies*.

DEFYING the whole Power of *Spain*, and the Resentment of the ten Provinces that border upon them, they

they craftily obtained the Possession of *Antwerp*, and ruined the Navigation of the *Scheld*, to bring the vast Business of that City to *Amsterdam*, which they effected to the Ruin of *Antwerp*, and the extreme Loss of the ten Provinces.

IN the Distress of their earliest Condition, as a Republic, they had Leave from our Crown to fish in our Waters, asking an annual Licence under our Great Seal, which they observed till near the End of King *James I's* Reign; but after they had gathered a vast Treasure from it, they scorn'd to ask our Licences, but would fish at Discretion, and not suffer an *English* Vessel to fish in quiet in our own Waters, if it fell in Company with them.

NOT longer after their most Infant State than King *Charles II.* they insulted us in the *Thames*; burned our Shipping at *Chatham*; and provoked a War they stubbornly maintained against us at Sea; and though they succeeded not, we are not to believe they have lost the View they had then, or will neglect any Opportunity that may bring it to the same Point again.

IT is not more than four Years since their Massacre upon 30,000 *Chinese*, almost upon the Borders of that vast Empire, of which they were Natives, as if they were in no Fear of the Revenge the Emperor might be prompted to take, nor of the Vicinity of an offended Power that is so considerable.

THE History of their Rise and Progress, may seem Romantic to Posterity, the World having no recorded Instance that can stand in any Degree of Comparison with

with it; and in reasoning from what they were, to what they are, and may be by the same Conduct, what may we not apprehend from a People of their growing Power; their Policy; Industry; Devotion to their Trade, and daring Intrepidity in the promoting it.

As Invectives are too low for Argument, what is said of the *Dutch*, I hope will not be esteemed an efflux of that Spirit from whence they flow; for in the stating a political Account, Things belonging to it, ought not to be omitted: Omissions in Accounts being Injurious to some Party in them. As my Letter may be numbered with the greatest of your Evils, if it runs into a greater Length, I shall take another Occasion for furnishing the Remainder of this Discourse, and check the present Temptation the Subject creates, by a Request you will esteem me,

S I R,

Your most Humble Servant.

T. W.



The End of the first PART.

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